

PSYCHOLOGY AND STRATEGY

For Falkenhayn substitute Nivelle—for Conrad take Cadorna. For Prussia put France and for Austria write Italy. The analogy will then be complete and the inference irresistible. If Nivelle was persuaded that he would break through the German lines and march in the rear of his victorious armies to the re-conquest of Alsace, why should he forgo that triumph in order to enable Cadorna to redeem Trieste ? If the French Army were assured by his scheme of the credit of smashing up at its strongest point the greatest military fortress the world had ever seen, why should that glittering prize be surrendered in order to give the soldiers of Italy the prestige ensuing from making a still wider and wiser gap in the walls of the same fortress elsewhere ?

The French jealousy of Italy had in it an element which was lacking in the Prussian envy of Austria.

The French regarded the very existence *French jealousy* of united Italy as a recent creation, of Italy brought into being by the valour of the

French Army. For them Italy was still something to be patronised. By implication the French attitude to Italy was " Had we not fought and bled to make you a free country you would still have been an Austrian province.¹⁵ There was always an element of derision in every private reference made by Frenchmen to Italian soldiers and sailors. The French attitude towards Italy was expressed in the

cynical comment of a French statesman,
when Italy
was hesitating as to whether she would
throw in her
lot with the Allies, or allow Austria to
purchase her
neutrality by territorial concessions.
When asked
what Italy was likely to do, he answered : "
Voler au secours du vainqueur." The brilliant feats of
her soldiers
in storming almost inaccessible mountain
peaks, their